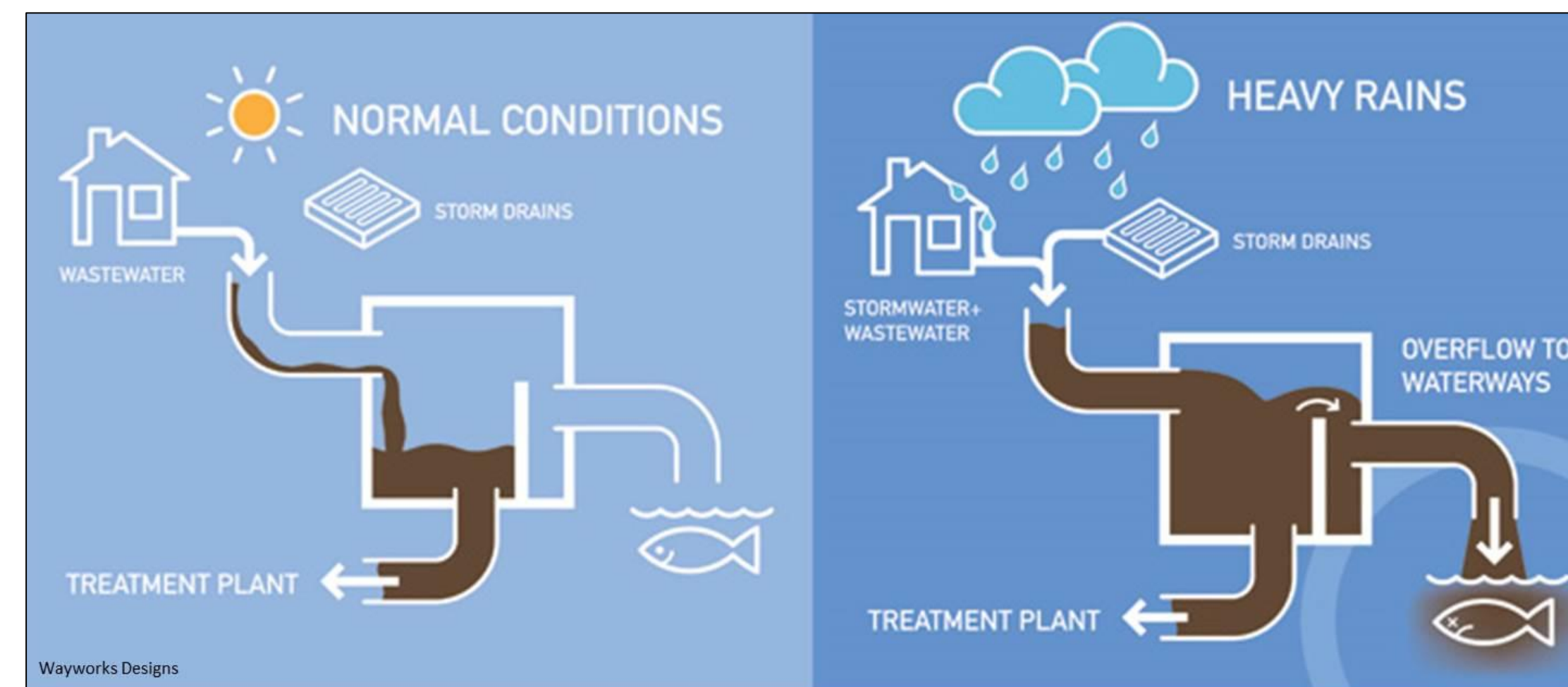


MWRC is finding and fixing bacteria pollution in the Merrimack River



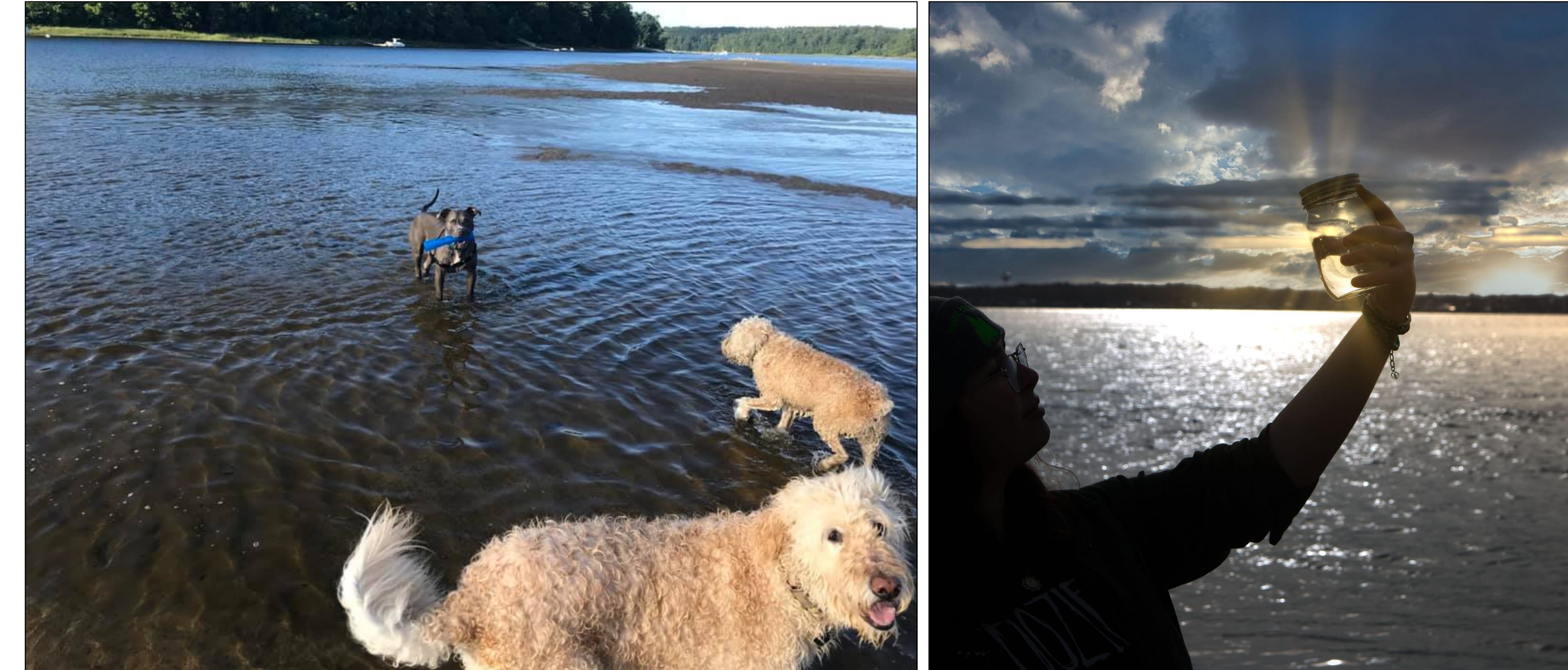
Community-based detective work to solve water pollution

Large volumes of polluted stormwater and combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharge are regularly released into the Merrimack River. This is compounded by an increase in heavy rainfall events in New England, as well as increasing surface water temperatures, due to climate change.



Many older cities have combined sewer systems. *Image source: CUNY Academic Commons*

The MRWC approach is based on a **data-to-action model** where science informs substantive change through policy and on-the-ground projects. We gather water quality data to identify bacteria hot spots, design greener stormwater treatment systems, call out polluters, and direct federal funding to protect drinking water.



These conditions have drastic consequences on drinking water, recreational opportunity, and valuable riverine and estuarine habitat. In light of the 2018 all-time high of **over 800 million gallons of CSO discharge** released into the Merrimack, the Merrimack River Watershed Council (MRWC) works with community members to fill critical data and education gaps.



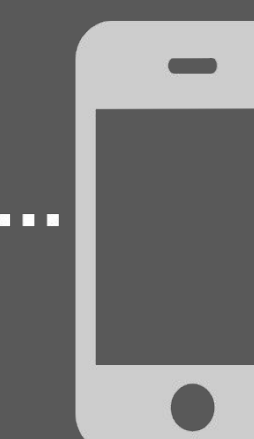
Why it Matters

Humans and nature need **clean water to thrive**. Water pollution, climate change, and failing infrastructure are urgent matters for both public and environmental health.

What You Can Do

Learn how to conserve water and keep it clean at www.merrimack.org

Consider volunteering or donating to MRWC or your local watershed organization.



Take a picture to learn more about MRWC

